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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Hiroshi Yamamoto
U. S. Patent No. : 7,167,600
Serial No. : 10/012,203
Issued : 01/23/2007
For : DRAWING METHOD FOR DRAWING IMAGE ...

March 12, 2007

Director of the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

SIR:

We request a Certificate of Correction under 37 C.F.R. 1.322, to correct Claim 25 (formerly claim 28) which was incorrectly listed at column 11, line 58, as: "... **processing program, such draw ...**"

Please change the same to read: "... **processing program, said program execution device including a memory wherein the draw processing program is stored, such draw ...**"

Please also correct claim 33 (formerly claim 37) which was incorrectly listed at column 12, line 51, as: "... **computer comprising : ...**" Please change the same to read: "... **computer, said computer including a memory wherein the draw processing program is stored, said draw processing program comprising : ...**"

Please also correct claim 39 (formerly claim 43) which was incorrectly listed at column 14, line 41, as: "... **processing program, the draw ...**" Please change the same to read: "... **processing program, said program execution device including a memory wherein the draw processing program is stored, the draw ...**"

Attached, please find a copy of the Notice of Allowability mailed on September 22, 2006, which includes an Examiner's Amendment making the above-noted changes..

This was due to an error made by the USPTO.

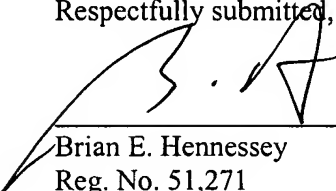
Certificate

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of Correction

Any fee due as a result of this paper, may be charged to Deposit account No.50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian E. Hennessey
Reg. No. 51,271

Customer No.: 026304
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
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New York, NY 10022-2585
(Tel) 212-940-8800
Docket No.: SCEY 19.084

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(Also Form PTO-1050)

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO : 7,167,600



DATED : January 23, 2007

INVENTOR(S) : Hiroshi Yamamoto

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

Claim 25 column 11, line 58: "-processing program, such draw-" should be changed to "--processing program, said program execution device including a memory wherein the draw processing program is stored, such draw--".

Claim 33 column 12, line 50: "-computer comprising :-" should be changed to "--computer, said computer including a memory wherein the draw processing program is stored, said draw processing program comprising :--".

Claim 39 column 14, line 41: "-processing program, the draw-" should be changed to "--processing program, said program execution device including a memory wherein the draw processing program is stored, the draw--".

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022-2585

PATENT NO. 7,167,600



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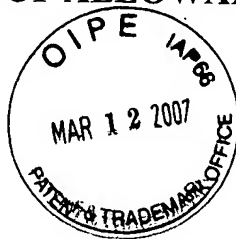
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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

026304 7590 09/22/2006

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585



SEP 26 2006

EXAMINER

PATEL, KANJIBHAI B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2006

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/012,203	10/19/2001	Hiroshi Yamamoto	SCEY 19.084	5293
TITLE OF INVENTION: DRAWING METHOD FOR DRAWING IMAGE ON TWO-DIMENSIONAL SCREEN				

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	12/22/2006

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

MAR 16 2007

ART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop, ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

James J. Dade (Depositor's name)
 (Signature)
December 6, 2006 (Date)

026304 7590 09/22/2006
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585
Customer Number: 026304



APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/012,203	10/19/2001	Hiroshi Yamamoto	SCEY 19.084	5293

TITLE OF INVENTION: DRAWING METHOD FOR DRAWING IMAGE ON TWO-DIMENSIONAL SCREEN

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	12/22/2006

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
PATEL, KANJIBHAI B	2624	382-284000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 **Katten Muchin**
Rosenman LLP

2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☒ Issue Fee
☒ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☒ Advance Order - # of Copies 5

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 501290 (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature

Typed or printed name

Date

Registration No.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

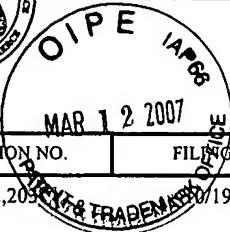
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/012,209	09/19/2001	Hiroshi Yamamoto	SCEY 19.084	5293
026304	7590	09/22/2006	EXAMINER PATEL, KANJIBHAI B	
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			ART UNIT 2624 DATE MAILED: 09/22/2006	

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

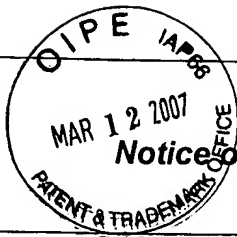
The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 706 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 706 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

MAR 16 2007



Application No.

10/012,203

Examiner

Kanji Patel

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO, HIROSHI

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/28/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-11, 13-20, 22-29, 31-43 and renumbered as 1-39.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dexter T. Chang on 9/12/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

See attached pages 2-14.

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1. (previously presented) A drawing method, comprising the steps of:

setting a value for expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;

generating a second image from the first image;

defining a coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit, wherein the coefficient is defined using a predetermined byte when the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is composed of at least three bytes;

synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and

outputting the synthesized image.

2. (original) The drawing method according to Claim 1, wherein the coefficient is extracted from a table having a plurality of coefficients gradationally composed therein using the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit as an index.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The drawing method according to Claim 1, wherein the second byte is selected as the predetermined byte for the case that the value is composed of three bytes.

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5. (original) The drawing method according to Claim 1, wherein the coefficient is defined as a semi-transparent coefficient such that increasing a ratio of the second image as the distance from the virtual viewpoint increases.

6. (original) The drawing method according to Claim 1, wherein the second image is generated by subjecting the first image to a predetermined image processing.

7. (original) The drawing method according to Claim 6, wherein the predetermined image processing for the first image is blurring.

8. (original) The drawing method according to Claim 1, wherein the second image is generated using an arbitrary color.

9. (original) The drawing method according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined compositional unit is a pixel.

10. (previously presented) A drawing device, comprising:
 a distance setting means for setting a value for expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;
 an image generation means for generating a second image from the first image;
 a coefficient definition means for defining a coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit, wherein the coefficient is

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defined using a predetermined byte when the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is composed of at least three bytes;

a synthetic means for synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and

an output means for outputting the synthesized image.

11. (original) The drawing device according to Claim 10, wherein the coefficient definition means extracts the coefficient from a table having a plurality of coefficients gradationally composed therein using the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit as an index.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The drawing device according to Claim 10, wherein the coefficient definition means selects the second byte as the predetermined byte for the case that the value is composed of three bytes.

14. (original) The drawing device according to Claim 10, wherein the coefficient definition means defines the coefficient as a semi-transparent coefficient such that increasing a ratio of the second image as the distance from the virtual viewpoint increases.

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15. (original) The drawing device according to Claim 10, wherein the image generation means generates the second image by subjecting the first image to a predetermined image processing.

16. (original) The drawing device according to Claim 15, wherein the image generation means subjects the first image to blurring as the predetermined image processing.

17. (original) The drawing device according to Claim 10, wherein the image generation means generates the second image using an arbitrary color.

18. (original) The drawing device according to Claim 10, wherein the distance setting means sets the distance for every pixel as a compositional unit.

19. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a draw processing program to be executed on a computer, the draw processing program comprising:

a distance setting step for setting a value expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;

an image generation step for generating a second image from the first image;

a coefficient definition step for defining a coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit;

a synthetic step for synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and

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an output step for outputting the synthesized image,

wherein the coefficient definition step further comprises a step for defining such coefficient using a predetermined byte for the case that the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is at least three bytes.

20. (original) The computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a draw processing program according to Claim 19, wherein the coefficient definition step further comprises a step for extracting such coefficient from a table having a plurality of coefficients gradationally composed therein using the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit as an index.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a draw processing program according to Claim 19, wherein the coefficient definition step further comprises a step for selecting the second byte as the predetermined byte for the case that the value is composed of three bytes.

23. (original) The computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a draw processing program according to Claim 19, wherein the coefficient definition step further comprises a step for defining as such coefficient a semi-transparent coefficient such that increasing a ratio of the second image as the distance from the virtual viewpoint increases.

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24. (original) The computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a draw processing program according to Claim 19, wherein the image generation step further comprises a step for generating the second image by subjecting the first image to a predetermined image processing.

25. (original) The computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a draw processing program according to Claim 24, wherein the image generation step further comprising a step for subjecting the first image to blurring as the predetermined image processing.

26. (original) The computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a draw processing program according to Claim 19, wherein the image generation step further comprises a step for generating an image composed of an arbitrary color as the second image.

27. (original) The computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a draw processing program according to Claim 19, wherein the predetermined compositional unit is a pixel.

28. (currently amended) A program execution device for executing a draw processing program; said program execution device including a memory wherein the draw processing program is stored, such draw processing program comprising:

a distance setting step for setting a value expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;

K4161132_1

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an image generation step for generating a second image from the first image;

a coefficient definition step for defining a coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit;

a synthetic step for synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and

an output step for outputting the synthesized image,

wherein the coefficient definition step further comprises a step for defining such coefficient using a predetermined byte for the case that the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is at least three bytes.

29. (original) The program execution device for executing a draw processing program according to Claim 28, wherein the coefficient definition step further comprises a step for extracting such coefficient from a table having a plurality of coefficients gradationally composed therein using the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit as an index.

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) The program execution device for executing a draw processing program according to Claim 28, wherein the coefficient definition step further comprises a step for selecting the second byte as the predetermined byte for the case that the value is composed of three bytes.

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32. (original) The program execution device for executing a draw processing program according to Claim 28, wherein the coefficient definition step further comprises a step for defining as such coefficient a semi-transparent coefficient such that increasing a ratio of the second image as the distance from the virtual viewpoint increases.

33. (original) The program execution device for executing a draw processing program according to Claim 28, wherein the image generation step further comprises a step for generating the second image by subjecting the first image to a predetermined image processing.

34. (original) The program execution device for executing a draw processing program according to Claim 33, wherein the image generation step further comprises a step for subjecting the first image to blurring as the predetermined image processing.

35. (original) The program execution device for executing a draw processing program according to Claim 28, wherein the image generation step further comprises a step for generating an image composed of an arbitrary color as the second image.

36. (original) The program execution device for executing a draw processing program according to Claim 28, wherein the predetermined compositional unit is a pixel.

37. (currently amended) A draw processing program to be executed on a computer, said computer including a memory wherein the draw processing program is stored, said draw processing program comprising:

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a distance setting step for setting a value expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;

an image generation step for generating a second image from the first image;

a coefficient definition step for defining a coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit;

a synthetic step for synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and

an output step for outputting the synthesized image,

wherein the coefficient definition step further comprises a step for defining such coefficient using a predetermined byte for the case that the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is at least three bytes.

38. (previously presented) A drawing device comprising:

a distance setting unit for setting a value expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;

an image generation unit for generating a second image from the first image;

a coefficient definition unit for defining a coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit, wherein the coefficient is defined using a predetermined byte when the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is composed of at least three bytes;

a synthetic unit for synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and

an output unit for outputting the synthesized image.

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39. (previously presented) A drawing method, comprising the steps of:

- setting a value for expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;
- generating a second image from the first image;
- defining a coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit;
- synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and
- outputting the synthesized image,

wherein the second image is generated by subjecting the first image to a predetermined image processing that is blurring.

40. (previously presented) A drawing method, comprising the steps of:

- setting a value for expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;
- generating a second image from the first image;
- defining an α blending coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit;
- synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and
- outputting the synthesized image,

wherein:

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the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is composed of twenty four bits, and

the α blending coefficient is defined using successive predetermined bits of the twenty four bits.

41. (previously presented) A drawing device, comprising:

a distance setting means for setting a value for expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;

an imaged generation means for generating a second image from the first image;

a coefficient definition means for defining an α blending coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit;

a synthetic means for synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and

an output means for outputting the synthesized image,

wherein:

the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is composed of twenty four bits, and

the α blending coefficient is defined using successive predetermined bits of the twenty four bits.

42. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a draw processing program to be executed on a computer, the draw processing program performing the steps of:

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setting a value for expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;
generating a second image from the first image;
defining an α blending coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit;
synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and
outputting the synthesized image,
wherein:
the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is composed of twenty four bits, and
the α blending coefficient is defined using successive predetermined bits of the twenty four bits.

43. (currently amended) A program execution device for executing a draw processing program, said program execution device including a memory wherein the draw processing program is stored, the draw processing program performing the steps of:

setting a value for expressing distance from a virtual viewpoint to every predetermined compositional unit of a first image;
generating a second image from the first image;
defining an α blending coefficient corresponding to the value for expressing the distance set to every predetermined compositional unit;

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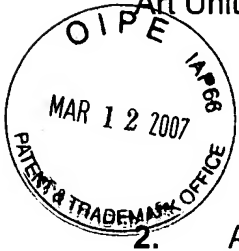
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synthesizing the first image and the second image based on the coefficient defined for every predetermined compositional unit; and
outputting the synthesized image,
wherein:
the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is composed of twenty four bits, and
the α blending coefficient is defined using successive predetermined bits of the twenty four bits.

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Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed on 7/28/06 has been entered and made of record.

By this amendment, claims 3,12, 21 and 30 are canceled. Claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20, 22-29 and 31-43 are pending in the application.

In response to applicant's amendment to claims 40-43, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20, 22-29, 31-43 (renumbered as 1-39) are allowed.

Claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20, 22-29 and 31-39 were allowed in the last office action mailed on 5/5/06. Further, in response to applicant's amendment and persuasive arguments (see page 15 of the remarks filed on 7/28/06) with respect to claims 40-43 the rejection under 112, first paragraph has been withdrawn and all the pending claims (1-2, 4-11, 13-20 and 22-29, 31-43) are allowed now.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


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Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kanji Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-7454. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bella, Matthew can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kanji Patel
Art Unit 2624
9/16/06


KANJIBHAI PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

SEP 16 2007